



COUNTY OF
LOS ANGELES
ANIMAL CARE
AND CONTROL

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PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cruelty Case Kitty Has New Owner / Prior Owner Convicted

Baldwin Park, CA...Lily, the Domestic Short Haired cat rescued from an abusive home in La Puente two weeks ago, has now been re-adopted into a new home in Tujunga.

"Lily, now re-named Pepper by her new owner, is acclimating nicely and recovering on schedule according to their family veterinarian," said Marcia Mayeda, Director for the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control. "Our officer made a home visit to the new owner, which revealed a loving and safe environment for her. She had it rough in her last home....she is a deserving little girl." Mayeda said.

The suspect in the case, identified as 18 year-old Willis SO of La Puente, accepted a plea deal at his pre-preliminary hearing in El Monte Court on 12/20/11. SO was sentenced to 180 days in jail, ordered to pay a \$1000 fine, 36 months summary probation, 300 hours of community service and ordered to pay \$100 in restitution.

"My staff was amazed at how loving and carefree Lily (now Pepper) was when she was in our care, considering what she went through," stated Mayeda. "Cruelty to animals is a precursor to violence towards human beings."

The public is asked to call their local animal control agency if they suspect animal cruelty is occurring in their neighborhood. For life threatening emergencies to animals, please call 911.



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Pepper (formerly named Lily) healthy and happy in her new home.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control is the largest animal care and control agency in the United States with centers in: Downey, Baldwin Park, Carson, Castaic, Lancaster and Agoura Hills, in addition to the Antelope Valley Pet Adoption Center, located in Lancaster.